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Not so “superbug” on the Saskatchewan Prairies



Federal government is changing regulations to fight superbug. Photo by Tennesa Wild.

TENNESSA WILD AGRICULTURE REPORTER

Global reductions of “superbugs” are on the world’s agenda once again. The medical scientific community signed a declaration to fight antibiotic resistance at The World Economic Forum held Jan. 21 in Davos, Switzerland.

That means Saskatchewan ranchers and farmers have been put on watch for overuse of antimicrobials, which lead to drug-resistant bugs.

In 2013, 99.4 per cent of the total antimicrobials distributed for veterinary use in Canada were used in food-production animals, according to Health Canada.

The Canadian Federal Government had already released their agenda in 2014.

Both parties make the commitment to reduce unnecessary use of antibiotics in livestock.

Health Canada is in collaboration with the Canadian Animal Health Institute. Together they are implementing the removal of growth-promoting antimicrobials used in food-produc-

tion animals.

“That’s just a piece of the puzzle,” said Christopher Yost, Canada Research Chair in Microbes and the Environment and food safety professor at the University of Regina.

“The vets won’t be reporting on the antibiotics in the feed,” said Yost. Instead they’ll be reporting on therapeutic use.

“Most ranchers know if (cattle) have pneumonia and the antibiotic to give them, or they ask the vet, but it’s not very much that (cattle) need an antibiotic,” said rancher Ron Silvester.

“The therapeutic administration of antibiotics is much lower than the amount of tons that’s put into feed,” said Yost.

Antibiotics have long been added to feed for growth promotion. The Canadian Animal Health Institute intends to have the final implementation of removal completed by December 2017.

“It takes that long to get the regulation in place. That’s not our companies; that’s the federal government. That’s the time frames the federal government has for enacting these,” said Jean Szkotnicki, the Institute’s

president.

“Life-threatening data is the most important way to drive public policy,” said Yost.

Antibiotic use in livestock is a real human threat. The effectiveness of antibiotics is impeded by antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Antibiotics can lose their fighting power as the “superbugs” become stronger. No new class of antibiotics has been discovered since 1987, which increases the threat.

“No antibiotic residues are on the meat - great, but point out the antibiotic-resistant bacteria because they’re the ones causing the problem,” said Yost.

Antimicrobial resistance is the natural process by which bacteria develop resistance to the medications generally used to treat them.

“There’s a lot of new stuff now vets are prescribing,” Silvester said.

“In cattle what’s the main route of antibiotic resistant bacteria? Probably feeding them,” Szkotnicki said, although “use in the feed is not the sole cause of resistance.”

Water contamination and the over-prescription of drugs are also

main routes.

“If there’s a need you give them an antibiotic or you haul them over the hill because they’re going to die. It’s the same for people, don’t they go to doctors? People don’t just pump antibiotics into the animals for the fun of it,” said Silvester.

“We are working on appropriate use of medically important microbials, Category one, two, and three is not considered to be growth promotion. We are still going to allow the use of the category four (ionophores) for growth promotion reasons,” states Szkotnicki.

This will “align Canada with initiatives in the United States,” said Szkotnicki.

“There is no evidence that ionophores used in livestock increases resistance to other antibiotics,” according to Reynold Bergen, director of science for the Beef Cattle Research Council.

This is good news for ranchers and farmers, as category four microbials (ionophores) provide important economic and environmental benefits for the livestock industry.

Environmental regulations will affect Trans-Canada Energy East



TransCanada Energy East is a proposed 4,600-kilometre pipeline to carry crude oil from the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan to Eastern Canada. Photo by Joelle Seal.

JOELLE SEAL ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTER

New environmental regulations around pipeline projects will affect the TransCanada Energy East Pipeline and other inter-provincial pipeline projects. The Energy East pipeline is proposed to carry 1.1 million barrels of crude oil per day from Alberta and Saskatchewan to refineries in Eastern Canada.

“The government is trying to find trust from stakeholders,” said Samuel Gamtessa, an economics professor at the University of Regina, who researches climate change mitigation policies and energy efficiency. “There are different interest groups involved, all of them with conflicting interests. The government is trying to balance all of that out.”

The federal government announced the new transitional review process regulations for pipeline approval for projects before the National Energy Board (NEB). These regulations will include an environmental assessment that considers “direct and upstream greenhouse gas emissions linked to the projects under review.”

The goal of these new regulations is to take into account the interests of all stakeholders, and to restore trust in the government’s processes in the eyes of the public.

This announcement comes on the heels of a report from federal environment commissioner Julie Gelfand. In this report, the commissioner was not assured that the NEB followed up on regulations and approval conditions, and that their systems were “outdated or inaccurate.” These new transi-

tional processes will be completed following the NEB’s review process, separately from the national regulator. During the federal election campaign, the Liberals had pledged to “modernize” the NEB’s processes.

For Jim Elliott, Regina chapter chair for The Council of Canadians, the revisions to the process are a necessity.

“Many of us thought that questions around the impacts of pipelines on climate change were some-

Gamtessa. “It’s going to delay it at least nine months, and we don’t know if it is going to be approved. We need it expedited.”

“The energy sector is feeling the burden of whatever emissions consumers are causing. The manufacturer should only be responsible for its emissions,” said Gamtessa. “We can focus on that specific question of how responsible (the energy sector) is, and whether their emission levels are responsible or not. Sustainability is about balancing

“The government is trying to find trust from stakeholders. There are different interest groups involved, all of them with conflicting interests. The government is trying to balance all of that out.”

- Samuel Gamtessa

thing that should be assessed as part of the project proposal,” said Elliott. “The addition to include that will give us a better sense of what the environmental impacts of those pipelines will be.”

“The pipelines would expand the production of oil in Alberta and make the aspect of dealing with climate change much tougher,” said Elliott. “I think this is something we should tackle globally. There are a lot of countries that have agreed that we need to be reducing our emissions. I don’t see us shutting everything down (in the oil industry), but at least tempering our use.”

Those concerned with Saskatchewan’s economic downturn due to pressures on the oil and gas industry believe that these regulations may not be compatible with economic stability in Saskatchewan.

“(Energy East) is going to be dragged on, which is not good for Saskatchewan,” said the U of R’s

both the economy and the environment.”

“Canada is what Canada is,” said Ken Coates, Canada Research Chair in Regional Innovation at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan campus.

“We are an energy-rich country that relies on resources to fuel our economy. We are an enormous country, with a scattered population, and a very cold climate. As Canadians, we need to decide what our energy future looks like.”

Coates argues that Canada has one of the most efficient and environmentally responsible oil and gas industries in the world. “We’ve been very successful with our pipelines. We have thousands of miles of pipelines in the country,” said Coates. “If these pipelines don’t go forward, we won’t stop the oil sands. The oil will get to market by train, which is more environmentally dangerous.”

Regina police purchasing militarized weapons



Ali Elyasi, a graduate student at the University of Regina, is not happy about new guns for Regina police force. Photo By Laura Beamish.

LAURA BEAMISH NATIONAL REPORTER

Police forces in Regina are shopping for carbine semi-automatic weapons for their street patrol officers.

The carbine is the same type of gun that is used by the Canadian Forces. Colt Canada, the distributors out of Hamilton, Ont., label the gun on their website as being, “battle proven in harsh combat environments.”

The new guns will cost around \$2,000 to \$3,000 each. The gun has the ability to pierce soft-body armour and is an accurate shot from 400 to 500 metres away.

Over the years, police have seen an increase in violence directed towards them. In 2005, four RCMP officers were killed in Alberta while investigating a marijuana grow operation. In Moncton, three RCMP officers were killed and two others were severely injured after Justin Bourque shot them in June 2014.

Steve Palmer, executive director at the Collaborative Centre for Justice and Security, said the weapons will keep the officers and citizens safer. “The patrol carbine is, in comparison to a shotgun, a much more accurate weapon. When you think of a shotgun, the spread and the pattern of the pellets in a confined space, it is potentially an even more dangerous weapon because you don’t know where all those pellets go.”

But not everyone is looking forward to the new weaponry.

“I’m not comfortable with the militarizing of police. I definitely think it will change the image

“I’m not comfortable with the militarizing of police. I definitely think it will change the image Canada has globally.”

- Ali Elyasi

Canada has globally,” said Ali Elyasi, a University of Regina graduate student who studied Canadian issues.

RCMP officers at the Vancouver International Airport made headlines in 2007 when a Polish immigrant was tasered to death. More recently, Sammy Yatim was shot and tasered by police in Toronto streetcar after carrying a small knife.

“In Canada, we do not have as much crime per capita as Americans do, so to me it just doesn’t make that much sense,” Elyasi said. South of the border, gun violence is much more prevalent, he said. “Canadian politics will be more and more like

Rick Ruddell, Law Foundation of Saskatchewan Chair in Police Studies, said the guns are not used as people may think. Officers will carry less deadly weapons on hand, with the more lethal weapons stored in the trunk and only taken out in extreme situations. “It’s just an issue of officer safety. A lot of officers feel like they need that firearm in the rare event that they come under fire from a person who has a more powerful weapon,” he said.

Ruddell maintained it’s better to be safe than sorry. “One of the issues in an urban environment, like Toronto or Calgary, is sometimes the police do come under fire, like they did in Moncton, and they



Colt Canada’s Carbine 8 Special Forces Weapon. This is the weapon that will be supplied to Regina Police Services.

American politics if things go the way they are going,” Elyasi added.

Palmer said it’s unfair to compare Canadian police to what is seen in the United States. “Our cultures, particularly related to guns, are so different,” Palmer said. “It doesn’t translate into more use. It’s almost like an insurance policy.”

just don’t have the luxury of waiting 25 minutes until the SWAT team gets there,” he said.

The decision comes with the passing of the city’s 2016 budget. The force will also hire eight additional police officers.

Saskatchewan union applauds repeal of legislation



CUPE Saskatchewan President Tom Graham is supportive of the recent decision. Photo by Michael Joel-Hansen.

MICHAEL JOEL-HANSEN LABOUR REPORTER

“We are happy with the decision to get rid of both of them,” was the sentiment expressed by CUPE Saskatchewan president Tom Graham regarding the recent decision by the new Liberal government to repeal bills C-377 and C-525.

Bill C-377 imposed mandatory reporting of union finances to the public. Bill C-525 affected workers in federally regulated areas by eliminating card certification, which many argue made it harder to accomplish union certification.

Of the two bills “C-377 was the one we are more familiar with, and concerned about,” Graham said. According to Graham, “It was just an attack on unions and we are happy to see it gone,” he said.

The main problem with Bill C-377 was that it required unions to report “all kinds of information to the gen-

eral public,” Graham said, “We don’t really want our employers to know how much money we have in the bank.”

“We don’t have any objection to our members knowing where their union dues go, we insist on that,” he added.

Graham mentioned the legislation would have been costly and difficult for unions and the government. “We didn’t even know what we were supposed to be filing,” he said.

Graham said Bill C-525 had more of an effect on workers in federally regulated areas. Graham said the changes introduced in this legislation made it harder for workers in these areas to unionize by getting rid of card certification, a process where employees confidentially sign membership cards to indicate support for joining a union.

Getting rid of card certification and requiring that there be a second vote would have allowed employers the opportunity to engage in what

Graham called “employer intimidation.”

Graham said that getting rid of card certification has real effects. “Statistically, where card certification is in place, the unionization rate is higher...where it is not in place it’s lower.”

When asked what the new Liberal government means for labour Graham said he is “cautiously optimistic.”

Andrew Stevens, a professor of business at the University of Regina who specializes in labour relations, was also a critic of the scrapped legislation.

Stevens said Bill C-377, which was sold by its proponents as being a way to make labour unions accountable, saw accountability defined in an “ideological and political charged way.”

Stevens also said the bill “circumvented the labour relations jurisdictions and the conventional approach to regulating unions by making...a very subtle amendment to the federal

income tax act.”

According to Stevens, labour unions are already accountable, as they are “democratic and representative in almost every jurisdiction including Saskatchewan.”

“(Unions) have certain audit and other legal requirements. There is already a system of accountability,” Stevens said.

Meanwhile proponents of the bill are likely disappointed. Organizations backing the bill did not respond with comments by press time.

However Merit Contractors of Canada President Terrance Oakley said to the Daily Commercial News in 2008 that “(Bill C-377) was long overdue.” Oakley went on to say, “If labour organizations want to enjoy the dual benefits of mandatory dues collection and beneficial tax treatment, they must earn it by operating in a transparent manner.”

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Cost of Lean still unclear



Judy Ferguson, provincial auditor, says when her office was conducting their 2015 audit, the Saskatchewan government didn't know the cost of the implementation of Lean. Photo by Brandon Harder.

BRANDON HARDER PROVINCIAL REPORTER

How cost-effective has the Lean initiative been in Saskatchewan? Well, depending on what you read, reports range from nine-figure savings to horrifying eight-figure losses.

The government says Lean is “a business technique used to improve the way we work.” However, Lean doesn't live under just one roof. Its cost and implementation has been handled differently in the health sector than in the rest of government.

The John Black and Associates Lean consultancy, along with its costs, were under the ministry of health. However, Lean practices similar to those used in the health sector have been implemented across other government ministries and agencies without costs incurred by John Black and Associates.

The provincial auditor's 2015 report examined Lean outside the ministry of health. It concluded that sufficient information is not available to know whether the Lean initiative is demonstrating a return on investment.

Judy Ferguson, the provincial

auditor, said one of the goals government set out for the Lean program was to save money. “Because they had articulated that as an objective of Lean, we expected that they would track that,” said Ferguson.

“The cost saving aspect – the way that they framed it – was a return on the investment,” said Ferguson. “Return on investment, for most users,

“They didn't know whether or not what they had anticipated to save was really happening.”

- Judy Ferguson

means you know how much it costs to deliver it and that you're getting a benefit that matches that or in surplus of that. It's that aspect they weren't collecting information on.”

“Specifically, we found that they didn't know the cost on the implementation of Lean,” said Ferguson. “In the report we conducted a survey, we collected some of that information on costing, and we found they hadn't done that. They weren't tracking the cost.”

As for Lean in the health sector, the government released a document in February 2015 that projected a total

savings of over \$125 million – a document that the auditor says contains figures that tie into an earlier 2014 audit of Lean in the health sector done by her office.

“They were capturing information on anticipated savings, and they had a good regime that they expected organizations and the health authorities to do. Then they expected them

to go back and figure out, ‘Now, is it actually happening?’” she said.

“What we discovered is that the database for Health Quality Council was very incomplete in that area. So they didn't know whether or not what they had anticipated to save was really happening.”

However, the auditor's 2014 report did not conduct a full analysis on the cost of Lean across the health sector.

Meanwhile, a recent report from the University of Saskatchewan's School of Public Health concludes that \$1,511 is spent on Lean for every dollar saved.

“That's money spent on health and money saved on health,” said Mark Lemstra, one of the report's authors.

The expenditure on the John Black and Associates consultancy is a major contributing factor to the \$1,511-to-\$1 ratio reported by the U of S study. However the savings realized by other ministries that use an adaptation of the program implemented under John Black and Associates makes the return on the cost of the consultancy difficult to measure, according to Ferguson.

Despite the U of S claims of losses in the health sector and the auditor's reports indicating insufficient cost information, the government still estimates positive returns from the initiative.

“For the 2008-09 to 2014-15 time period we estimate the total savings resulting from lean to be approximately \$130 million with total direct costs estimated to be approximately \$42 million for a net savings of approximately \$88 million. This includes ministries, and the health and education sectors,” said Kent Campbell, deputy minister of intergovernmental affairs, in an email.

Campbell did not comment on how those estimates were reached.

Alleged assault in Pilot Butte stirs up questions about unlicensed day cares



Debra Schubert, mother and social work practicum student, says parents don't know what they're getting into when they try and choose childcare. Photo by Emily Pasiuk.

EMILY PASIUK CITY REPORTER

After the alleged assault of a 14-month-old girl in an unlicensed day home in Pilot Butte, questions have arisen about Saskatchewan's unlicensed day cares.

A search of the Government of Saskatchewan's website indicated there are 141 licensed day cares in Regina. Unlicensed day homes are legal in Saskatchewan, but the only piece of legislation that applies to them concerns the number of children and the ages of the children in the care of the provider.

Cindy Jeanes, director of early learning and childcare service delivery with the ministry of education, says the only way that the ministry can monitor unlicensed day care is through complaints. The ministry can then only make suggestions to the provider.

"(If) a person has a concern about supervision, that children are outside unsupervised or there's a concern about what children are being fed, our consultants can provide some infor-

mation about proper nutrition or with regard to appropriate supervision."

The ministry's "authority in unlicensed (childcare) is specific to the numbers and ages of children... Providers, hopefully, will take that ad-

dren to people to care for, for anywhere from five to 12 hours a day. It would make sense that people would have a very good understanding of children's growth and development... that they would be able to prepare an

"That's your baby, you know, you want the best care for them. A person can be really nice to you and then you don't actually know what's going to happen when you shut the door... You don't really know what you're getting into."

- Debra Schubert

ditional information and implement it. I believe people want to do the best they can when they're caring for children," she said.

Shauna Coons, program head for the early childhood education program-Regina campus, said that although there are a lot of quality unlicensed day cares out there, proper training is important because "you're handing over the lives of young chil-

environment that would be inviting and feel like home."

"These are young children's lives," she added. "You're affecting the lives of children and families. This isn't just, you know, sit down and have a ball of Play-Doh and have a good time."

As for the advantages of a licensed childcare facility over an unlicensed one, Coons said, "When you are licensed, you do have a set of crite-

ria by which you must operate and you do have a consultant from the ministry of education who comes out and not only makes sure that you are following those regulations but also supports you, guides you, gives you that extra information that you might need in order to provide that quality care."

"When you're in a licensed child care facility, you're more accountable," said Debra Schubert, a mother of three and social work practicum student. "You're always accountable so if my daughter fell and got a little bump, any little bump that she got, the day care had to fill out a report and it was like everybody knew what had happened and there was more accountability for everything, even if it seemed insignificant."

Schubert also said finding childcare of any kind can be difficult. "That's your baby, you know, you want the best care for them. A person can be really nice to you and then you don't actually know what's going to happen when you shut the door... You don't really know what you're getting into," she said.

Condom machines moving in



Audray-Anne Montpetit, President of Luther University Student Association, said new condom machines will move into Luther College. Photo by Cheryl Lu.

CHERYL LU CAMPUS REPORTER

Brand new condom machines are on their way to Luther College at the University of Regina.

Audray-Anne Montpetit, president of Luther University Student Association, said this step is “momentous” for her.

“They are going to be put in the cellar of the residence side of Luther College, into the washrooms that we have down there,” said Montpetit, who was promoting the condom machines at a Sexual Health Fair at the college Feb. 3.

The cellar in Luther College Residence is a common area. It’s at the lowest level underneath the residence floors, with game tables, a TV and a small kitchen. Montpetit said the reason the machines are going in the cellar is partially because of the budget shortage.

“We didn’t have enough condom machines to go on to every single floor of our residence,” said Montpetit. “We wanted our condom machines to be accessible to everyone, and that’s the one place that all our residents have access to.”

Another reason is people need to feel safe to get a condom without feeling awkward, Montpetit said. “Sex

in general is still a taboo subject for our society,” said Montpetit. “If it’s a gender neutral area, they could just go into the washroom, close the door, do their business, grab a condom, and discreetly walk out, nobody would

“We feel like we shouldn’t stop it from happening, and we can’t stop them from happening. Condoms (are) at least a step in the right direction for providing protection.”

Montpetit said there are already



know.”

Montpetit believes having condoms on campus is necessary. “We realize that people in today’s generation are going to have sex,” she said.

“Sex in general is still a taboo subject for our society.”

condom machines on the main campus of the University of Regina, but Luther College has been pretty “slow-going” in this process. “We’ve had a lot of difficulties trying to push for-

ward with the idea of having condom machines specifically in our location,” she said. “It’s bit of a hot topic for us.”

“It is my hope that besides having just male condoms, we also provide female condoms as well, just so that females realize that they can also protect themselves,” said Montpetit. “We’re also planning on having a little pamphlet booth set up right beside our condom machine, just so that (people) know there are other options for them.”

Details such as condom sizes and content of the pamphlets will still be discussed in the next committee meeting, which, according to Montpetit, will be held in the next two weeks.

The Sexual Health Fair located in the link between Luther and Campion College was held by Luther College this semester to promote the new condom machines to be installed in its residence. According to Debra Schubert, a social work practicum student running a booth for the event, the sexual Health Fair was usually held by UR Pride in the past, and it’s an “education session” to raise people’s awareness of sexual assault and consciousness of safe sex.

The booths were full of posters and brochures about sexually transmitted infections, birth control and rape culture, as well as free condoms.

- Audray-Anne Montpetit

Tim Hortons and Burger King go cage-free



Researchers say cage-free isn't necessarily the best for hen welfare. Photo by Richelle Peace.

RICHELLE PEACE BUSINESS REPORTER

The future is bright for the hens that work in the restaurant business. Tim Hortons and Burger King restaurants will now be serving cage-free eggs at their locations in Canada, Mexico and the U.S. by the year 2025.

Margherita Vittorelli, marketing coordinator of the Saskatchewan Egg Producers explained cage-free is a term to describe two different housing systems for hens: free-range and free-run. Hens that are considered free-range are ones that "are free. They're not in cages. They're free to express natural behaviours. So they can spread their wings, dust, scratch, they can lay their eggs in nests in

private and they can have access to the outdoors. Free-run hens have all of the same components except access to the outdoors," said Vittorelli.

When companies like Tim Hortons, Burger King and now other restaurants used the term "cage-free" eggs some consumers think that this is a good thing.

However, there have been studies conducted by researchers in the animal and poultry science department at the University of Saskatchewan that suggest that there are advantages to all forms of welfare for hens.

Karen Schwan-Lardner, a U of S poultry welfare researcher said there are four types of housing for hens, including conventional and enriched cages, as well as free-run and free-range systems.

Schwan-Lardner said that science is pointing to enriched cages which include perches and nest boxes, as being a better welfare system for most hens than any other system. "People see this beautiful picture of birds outside and think that it's a perfect system. It's really not. There are a number of potential issues, (for example), higher bird mortality, higher stress levels, all kinds of things that indicate maybe (free-range) isn't the best system," she said.

Another report by Joseph Stookey at the U of S states that although hens can be confined to such small spaces in cages at some farms, the practice brings great economic return and profit. "Birds kept in free-run systems have been especially prone to cannibalism. Attempts to recreate and

study the phenomenon have been problematic. There may (also) be a genetic predisposition and if this is true, it may prove to be a valuable key if it can be controlled via genetic selection. In the end we need more research on the problem," he wrote.

"Many consumers assume that free-range and free-run are better for hen welfare but that's not what academic research is pointing at. What they're pointing at is that every system have different benefits and it's very hard to be able to tell (which) system is the best for the hens," said Vittorelli.

The nine-year time frame appears to be a long deadline, but it will take longer than just a few months to implement this change. It is unclear if the quality of life will in fact become better for the hens once they are removed from their cages, whatever the dimensions may be, the researchers say.

Both Burger King and Tim Hortons are part of the fast food restaurant company Restaurant Brands International Inc. On RBI's website a post stated that animal welfare is important to the company and that RBI will continue engaging with their partners at The Humane Society of the U.S. and Humane Society International to better understand any issues of animal welfare. Later in 2016, RBI will release an update on the company's progress on animal welfare.

Whatever the case, Canadian egg farms are destined to change. The Code of Practice Committee plans to implement a new code of practice with some regulatory changes at egg farms concerning the welfare of hens whether they are caged, free-run, or free-range. Now with restaurants promising to buy cage-free eggs, changes are even closer on the horizon.

Sask. health officials keep eye on Zika virus

BUSAYO OSOBADE INTERNATIONAL REPORTER

A recent case of the Zika virus reported in the United States has been linked to being transmitted through sex, not a mosquito bite.

In Saskatchewan, health officials are watching these developments closely.

Paul Levett, clinical director of the Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory, said the *Aedes aegypti* and the *Aedes albopictus* are the type of mosquitoes that spread this virus.

He said it is theoretically possible for the virus to be transmitted sexually but the probability is low.

"Because the virus is transmitted via the bite of an infected mosquito

and with this group of viruses, the multiplication that takes place in the mosquito. The amount of virus present in genital secretion (or) in semen would be very small," he said.

"The spread of the virus is limited by the distribution of the mosquitoes, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*, and the key to controlling the spread of the virus is to control the mosquito populations," said Levett.

Regina resident Omotayo Fola-Babalola, who is five months pregnant, said going to the affected countries is not one of the options she is considering now and that she is still scared, even though Canada has been ruled out as one of the countries that could be affected by this virus.

"That virus scares the hell out of me, but what gives me confidence is the fact that Canada is a developed
Continued on next page.



The Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory is keeping an eye on the Zika Virus but says there is little threat it could come to Canada. Photo By Busayo Osobade.

Assiniboia basketball paints the province pink



The Assiniboia Rockets' senior girls' basketball team gather minutes before the tip-off of the seventh annual Pink Game Feb. 5 at the Assiniboia Composite High School gymnasium. Photo by Allison Bamford.

ALLISON BAMFORD SPORTS REPORTER

The Assiniboia Composite High School Rockets girls' basketball team played for more than just baskets on Feb. 5. The Rockets hosted their seventh annual Pink Game to raise money and awareness for the fight against cancer.

The Pink Game, just like it sounds, is a basketball game played entirely in pink – pink uniforms, a pink basketball and a crowd dressed in pink – signifying the battle against cancer.

The tradition started in 2009 when Rockets' head coach Al Wandler was flipping through a basketball catalogue and stumbled across pink uniforms.

"I thought, 'Hmmm those are different, what can we do with those?'" Wandler recalled. He never imagined that those pink uniforms would become such a success.

"I've always been a big believer

in the basketball team that the girls should be giving back to the community that supports them," Wandler said. "They always have to be a part of something that's bigger than themselves."

"The Pink Game helps our team chemistry," Wandler said. "It's had us play better in the recent years as a result of that ... because the girls want to play for each other rather than just play."

The Pink Game has certainly become bigger than the team, and even bigger than the community.

With the pay-it-forward mentality, each year the newest addition of the "pink family" buys uniforms for another basketball team to host their own pink games with the understanding that they will then pay it forward to another team.

This year's addition to the "pink family" was the Humboldt Mohawks, coached by Kerri Archibald.

"The girls are really excited about becoming part of the tradition and they love their pink uniforms," Ar-

chibald said. "It's also important that the awareness is spreading."

There are now 16 teams that have adopted the "pink game" tradition across Saskatchewan. Eight of these teams participated in the Rockets' tournament on Feb. 5 and 6. These teams included the Indian Head Broncs, Caronport Cougars, Humboldt Mohawks, Fillmore Falcons, Clavet Cougars, Unity Warriors and Shaunavon Silhouettes.

"The goal is to showcase these eight teams, these eight coaches, these eight players that are doing this all around the province," Wandler said.

Each year, the money raised is donated to a person directly affected by cancer. This year's pink game donations went to Austin Thronberg, an ACHS alumni, who was diagnosed with leukemia last September and recently entered remission. Thronberg said he is thankful for the Rockets basketball team as well as the tremendous support he's received from the community.

"This support has showed how

close this community is with one another and means so much to me," Thronberg said.

Unfortunately, Thronberg lost his battle with cancer Feb. 9 after having attended the Pink Game only days before.

Over the past seven years, Wandler said the Rockets alone have raised over \$23,000. As for the entire province, Wandler estimates the amount of money raised through all the pink games to be "easily" \$45,000.

However, for Wandler, the Pink Game isn't all about the money.

"It means hope," Wandler said. "It's not just basketball... As long as people know they have support and people will always be there, that to me is what it's really all about."

"It's not a game," Wandler said. "It's the idea behind it that's so important to me."

This year's Pink Game matchup had the Assiniboia Rockets faceoff against the Shaunavon Silhouettes. The Rockets won 66-40.

Zika from page 8

country that can handle such an epidemic compared to other countries.

I avoid unnecessary insects, keep up to date with my pregnancy medications and I always ensure that I see my doctor," she said.

Levett said that the Zika virus is a mild disease that only lasts for about 4 to 5 days and that there is little risk to anybody except for concerns about infections during pregnancy.

According to Levett, pregnant women in Canada should not be scared if they don't travel to the affected countries because neither of

these mosquitoes exist in Canada.

"If you have travel plans to any of the affected countries, consider very carefully the risk of being infected and also whether you actually need to travel. So if you are pregnant in Regina at the moment and if you can avoid travelling to one of the affected countries, then you make the risk absolutely minimal," he said.

The virus, which is linked to birth defects in the Americas, is primarily spread through mosquito bites, and has more serious effect on pregnant women.

Although the Zika virus was declared an international health emergency on Feb. 1, 2016 by Dr. Margaret Chan, director-general of the World Health Organization, the mosquito-borne disease had also been ruled out to spread to Canada and Chile because of the cold climate in these countries.

Levett said *Aedes albopictus*, which is also known as the Asian tiger mosquito, first made its way to the Americas through a shipment of used tires.

"Once you have a used tire, if it

gets water in it, it's difficult to get the water out, and mosquitoes can breed in that small amount of water," said Levett.

According to WHO, the Zika virus is transmitted to people through the bite of an infected mosquito in tropical regions. These mosquitoes are aggressive daytime biters but can also bite at night. They become infected when they bite a person that had already been infected, and just one bite from an infected mosquito can spread the virus.

Reports contrast success of history curriculum

ALEX JOHNSON
EDUCATION REPORTER

Saskatchewan's history curriculum is under the microscope after two contrasting reports were released in December and January.

According to Historica Britannica's Canadian History Report Card, Saskatchewan ranked 12th out of 13 provinces and territories with a grade of 69 per cent, only ahead of Alberta.

This report looks primarily at Grades 7 to 12 Canadian history classes. However it also evaluates social studies, civics, humanities, social sciences and other courses with Canadian history content. Analyzing these subjects allows a better investigation into the state of history education in Canada.

On the other hand, Saskatchewan earned the top spot in a report prepared by Kairos Canada. It was used to assess progress in achieving reconciliation through education in schools across the country.

The Kairos report looks at the provincial curriculum and how well it covers residential schools, Treaties and the historic and past and present contributions of Indigenous peoples.

Each province receives a grade ranging from "Excellent" to "Significant Work Required".

All Saskatchewan Grade 12 students must choose one of three 30-level classes. Choices include Native Studies, Social Studies, and History. Bronwyn Graves, project manager at Historica Canada, said that although Native Studies and Social Studies include valuable historical content they do not cover the same content as History 30.

The Historica Britannica report stated that the documents being used in the curriculum are outdated, adding "Overall, Saskatchewan provides a rich and wide array of courses from which students can choose. However, in order to ensure that students will learn about important 20th century Canadian content, History 30 should become mandatory."

Jennifer Hubble, dean of the faculty of education at the University of Regina, said she disagrees that Grade 12 students should have to take History 30. She said this recommendation "is prescriptive, narrow, and privileges knowledge of history over the ability of students to make connections between the past and the present."

Continued on page 11.



Jennifer Hubble, dean of the faculty of education at the University of Regina, sits in her office holding a text used to teach education students about First Nations history. Photo by Alex Johnson.

J-Source turns to audience for financial support

ALEX ANTONESHYN
MEDIA REPORTER

The creators of J-Source, a news outlet that covers issues in the Canadian media, are asking for their audience's help once again as they work to expand their coverage.

J-Source publisher Chris Waddell said the donors' support will be realized almost immediately.

"The people who have given money, and are giving money, will be able to see that their money is producing stories from freelance contributors very shortly," he said.

Originally established under the Canadian Journalism Foundation in 2007, J-Source was almost entirely supported by the CJF until 2013. Then several other funders agreed to share the responsibility for the next three years – the time J-Source figured it would need to revitalize and improve its operations. During these years, the online publication twice turned to its readers, whose donations resulted in the new positions of associate editor and part-time business manager.

Now that those three years are nearing their end, J-Source is looking for audience support once again.

Crowdfunding is an alternative way to finance personal or professional projects through the support of donors. Although it was mostly used to finance musical or artistic ventures originally, outlets in the Canadian journalism industry are using it to

provide free content to their audiences.

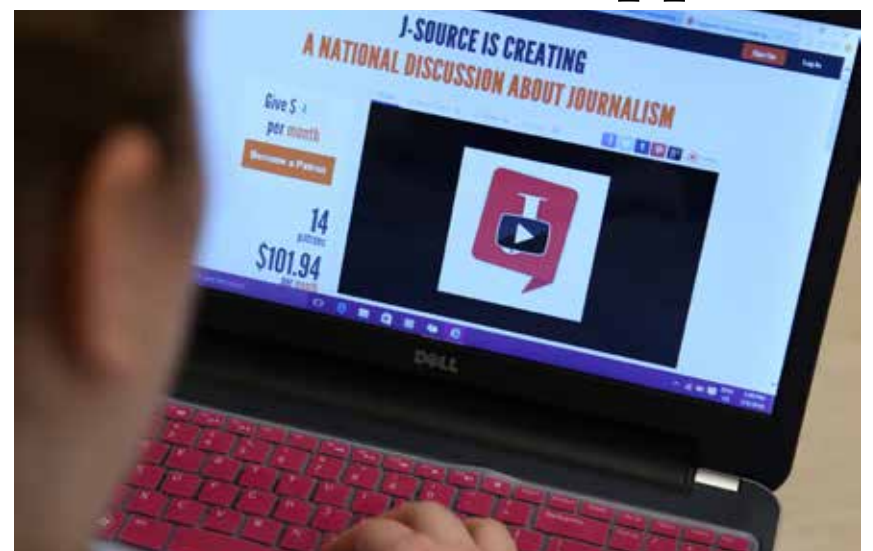
J-Source announced the beginning of its most recent crowdfunding effort in early December with the purpose of improving their regional coverage. The group is using Patreon, an online crowdfunding platform and their profile cites a changing media landscape as the reason for J-Source's need for financial help.

"(As) some news outlets consolidate or shut down, others are emerging to provide new kinds of coverage in new ways. With increased freelance coverage of eastern and western Canada, J-Source can explore these issues in-depth, with the quality that you have come to expect," read the post.

Considering the turbulence 2016 has brought Canadian journalists – including announcements of staff cuts at Postmedia and Rogers Media, the end of Guelph Mercury's print edition, the closing of the Nanaimo Daily, and the Halifax Chronicle Herald strikers launching their own website, Local Xpress – J-Source might need the extra staff to keep up with the industry's changes.

J-Source's goal is to sustain monthly contributions of \$500, but as of Feb. 3, 2016, J-Source was just one-fifth to their goal. Supported by 14 patrons (donors), their monthly total has only reached \$101.94.

According to Waddell, support from the patrons will be used in a few different ways.



J-Source, a news site that covers issues in the Canadian media, returns to crowdfunding to improve their coverage. Photo by Alex Antoneshyn.

"We hope (for) several things. We always are looking for more contributions from journalism schools across the country and additionally, we hope to use that money to get more freelance contributions from outside of the Toronto and Ontario area," said the publisher.

Freelance reporter Rob Tripp is one of J-Source's supporters. He rationalizes the monthly payments by comparing it to other expenses.

"You know, we're willing to go into Starbucks and spend four bucks for a grande latte. Why not send four or five bucks a month supporting some journalism?" he said.

Canadaland, a website and podcast that offers commentary on Ca-

nadian media, is also funded through Patreon. The total of their monthly donations, however, is almost \$12,000 from 2,500 patrons.

Tripp, who is also a Canadaland patron, sees a return on his investment in both media publications.

"I think I want to be part of the campaign to make journalism and content creation and news valuable so that it's not simply viewed as a free commodity; if more people get on board with the micro-payment structure, then a lot of organizations and creators and independent journalists might be able to make some money," said Tripp.

New coffee shop in Heritage brews community



33 1/3 Coffee Roasters owner Eric Galbraith (left) and barista Ethan Anderson. Photo by Jessie Anton.

JESSIE ANTON ARTS & CULTURE

When Eric Galbraith started roasting coffee beans five years ago in his backyard garage, he had no idea where his love for coffee would take him. Today, with his own handpicked, in-house roasted coffee beans, he has gone from selling his coffee at the Regina Farmer's Market to opening his own coffee shop in the heart of Heritage Regina, called 33 1/3 Coffee Roasters.

Galbraith came up with the coffee shop's name years ago when he was planning to open a record store. "It was because of records, because they spin at 33 1/3 rpm," said Galbraith. As for the coffee shop, he chose to keep the name because it meant that he wouldn't be confused with any other business, and it's all about keeping things fresh.

Galbraith started the business when he discovered that his friends, Kelsey Beach and Adam Smith, were opening Malt National Brewery and

had extra room in their 15th Avenue building.

According to Beach, part owner of the microbrewery, the idea of adding Galbraith into the mix originally began when he and Smith discovered that the building would be quiet during the day and busy in the evening.

"We realized that there would be space and times when it would be dead, so we realized that coffee would be the perfect partnership because the business is the exact opposite of ours," said Beach.

Eventually, Galbraith united with Tim and Amy Weisgarber, the owners of T+A Vinyl and Fashion, and the third space in the building. The Weisgarbers shared Galbraith's adoration for vinyl, which delighted him.

"I've always wanted to have a coffee shop that was a record store, so that was kind of my dream and it turned out," explained Galbraith. "Now, I don't have to worry as much about the record store, I can focus on the coffee."

As for the Weisgarbers, their focus on opening their record and clothing

shop was driven by their desire to give back to the community.

After attending an open house for Beach and Smith's Heritage location brewery—as only neighbours—the Weisgarbers saw opportunity in Beach and Smith's business endeavours. As residents in the Heritage neighbourhood, the Weisgarbers supported the idea and saw the benefits it had in the community, so they decided to join in.

Recently being successful at pop-up sales at the Cathedral Village Arts Festival (where they also sold vintage records and clothes), the Weisgarbers knew that there was a demand for more home-grown shops in Regina, and they were pleased to join the local business community.

Because the building that they all share is one big, open room, it offers an unusual yet visually pleasing aesthetic for customers from every business to enjoy. "(The building) is becoming more of a community space," said Tim Weisgarber.

Kathleen Wilson, executive director at Heritage Community Asso-

ciation, believes that the increase of local businesses in the area profits the community.

"Those buildings were abandoned before those businesses moved in. It's creating more walkable neighbourhoods because it's going to attract people, and that should actually help with crime and safety," said Wilson.

"Having things like a coffee shop where they can walk to and see neighbours, I think that it's going to be really great for the neighbourhood. We want to see more of this kind of development," she added.

Although the Malt National Brewery isn't set to open until March, two-thirds of the building's businesses (33 1/3 Coffee Roasters and T+A Vinyl and Fashion) are open for the community to experience.

"Coffee, beer, records and vintage clothes—along with the whole open space concept—it's different. There isn't anything like it," said Tim Weisgarber.

Curriculum from page 10

Hubble added, "The Treaty Curriculum has been mandatory in Saskatchewan since 2008 and provides students with opportunities for interdisciplinary learning from kindergarten to grade 12. It recognizes that treaties are the building blocks of Canada and must be part of our historical and contemporary understanding of this country."

Jordan Bisson, education student at the U of R, disagreed. "I think

History 30 should be mandatory because it's an important subject. It's not one that you can just skip. I think everyone needs to know. It won't be detrimental to make it mandatory," she said.

According to Stephanie Ali, director of communications for the ministry of education, any changes to the curriculum are paused while the government consults with the ministry to determine what the best

approach is to meet students' needs.

"The curriculum is designed to provide a framework for teachers. Teachers then choose the materials they use to teach the content and teachers have the flexibility to move beyond what is outlined in the curriculum. While the examples in the curriculum reflect pre-1997, the units of study also lend themselves to more current history," she said.

Neither report evaluated how

teachers taught the curriculum to students.

Elizabeth Ingram, an education student at the U of R, said, "The way that a teacher portrays it is going to make it more meaningful. They need to explain why it affects us today. I feel like I never got that when I was in history."

Regina to host Indigenous artists symposium



Adam Martin and Katherine Boyer, organizers of the three-day symposium, say it will offer something for everyone. Photo by Brad Bellegarde.

BRAD BELLEGARDE ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Artists from across Canada will gather in Regina Feb. 24 to 27 to take part in what could be considered the first event of its kind in the Queen City. The Indigenous Artists Symposium is being hosted by Sakewewak Artists' Collective and the Plain Red Art Gallery of the First Nations University of Canada.

Audrey Dreaver, event coordinator, said she hopes the symposium will help build bridges in the community. "I love collaboration, I really think that collaboration is the way we have to go to move forward in a more stronger and effective way," she said. "It's much better when we work with others because it brings awareness and it helps us to build bridges and build a better Canada."

The theme for the symposium is activism and education through the arts. It will feature more than 30 artists with half from Saskatchewan and

half from other provinces.

The event is important to discussing the role of education for artists, according to Katherine Boyer, gallery and collections coordinator for the Plain Red Art Gallery at FNUniv.

"A lot of the goals (of the Plain Red Art Gallery) are to educate and

"It's much better when we work with others because it brings awareness and it helps us to build bridges and build a better Canada."

- Audrey Dreaver

as artists, we're often in a position to educate," she said. "I'm really looking forward to discussing the importance of visual art in the educational system and how learning through art is a very special opportunity."

The event is scheduled to run in collaboration with Sakewewak's 16th annual Storytellers Festival. "Why not wrap it all together?" said Sakewewak executive director Adam Martin.

"Business during the day and some entertainment at night while everyone is here."

"We can really showcase the collective and what Regina is all about because we are bringing artists from across the country," said Martin.

This symposium is the product of

artists themselves," said Dreaver, who worked for CARFAC on the 2014 symposium.

The three-day event will feature panels with artists and arts educators on topics ranging from education in the arts and contemporary issues in Indigenous art to arts organizations and funding opportunities for organizations and artists.

In addition to panel discussions, the symposium will feature workshops about digital storytelling, prepping work for exhibitions and porcupine quillwork.

Martin hopes the symposium will help educators understand some of the struggles Indigenous people have to deal with on a day-to-day basis.

"By putting activism and education together with the arts, I'm hoping that educators from the University of Regina, from FNUniv and even some educators from elementary and high schools are coming out to this event to learn the struggles and understand why they happen," he said.

discussions among artists who attended the 2014 Canadian Artists Representatives Saskatchewan Aboriginal artists symposium in Saskatoon.

"The artists gave recommendations that included bringing artists together to network and celebrate Indigenous art. (They said) this type of gathering should continue but the next time it should be organized by the Indigenous art organizations and